

Message Text

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FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE INFO SAIGON, PHNOM PENH, VIENTIANE

FROM PARIS APRIL 21 ST:

QUOTE: PARIS 11147

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, VN

SUBJ: FRENCH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE FRENCH PRISONERS
IN DRV

DEPT PLEASE PASS DEFENSE

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS BOLLE SAID TWO
GERMANS WHO HAD BEEN RELEASED BY THE DRV (SCHVANN AND DEHL)
HAD TOLD THE FRENCH THAT THEY THOUGHT DRV WAS HOLDING SOME
FRENCH PRISONERS. WHEN THEY PASSED THROUGH CAMP 77
LOCATED 12 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF HANOI IN DECEMBER 1969, THEY
WERE STRUCK BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF FRENCH LANGUAGE BOOKS AND
CONCLUDED SOME FRENCH NATIONALS MUST BE AMONG PRISONERS.
THEY SAID THAT AMERICAN PRISONER, BEN PURCEL, HAD TOLD THEM
HE HAD SEEN AN OLD FRENCHMAN IN CAMP 77.

2. BOLLE SAID THAT GOF WAS UNAWARE OF ANY FRENCHMEN WHO WOULD
HAVE BEEN IN CAMP 77 IN 1969. THE 13 FRENCH CITIZENS
WHO DISAPPEARED IN CAMBODIA AND ABOUT WHOM FRANCE IS STILL
TRYING TO GET NEWS DISAPPEARED SUBSEQUENT TO DATE CITED

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BY SCHVINN AND DEHL.

3. BOLLE ASKED USG ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING WHETHER THERE WAS ANY SUBSTANCE TO SCHVINN/ DEHL REPORT. BOLLE THOUGHT DEBRIEFING OF PURCEL, AND PERHAPS OTHER AMERICAN POWS WHO WERE IN CAMP 77 MIGHT PROVIDE INFORMATION TO CONFIRM OR REFUTE SCHVINN/ DEHL REPORT. ALTHOUGH GOF CONSIDERED EVIDENCE THAT THE DRV HELD FRENCH PRISONERS WAS SLIGHT, THE MATTER WAS OBVIOUSLY OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT THEY WISHED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO INVESTIGATE AS MENTIONED, BUT NEVER PRECISELY DEFINED.

ECE WORK IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS HAS GONE FORWARD ON A NUMBER OF TOPICS IN SECTORAL EXPERTS GROUPS AND SPECIAL STUDY GROUPS. ADDITIONALLY, A PERMANENT BODY OF SENIOR ADVISERS ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION FIELD HELD ITS FIRST MEETING IN DECEMBER 1972, BUT WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON A MAJOR WORK PROGRAM BECAUSE OF SOVIET RELUCTANCE.

3. ONE NOTABLE SOURCE FOR MODELS TO BE USED IN EXPANDING THE ECE SENIOR SCIENCE ADVISERS PROGRAM IS TO BE FOUND IN CERTAIN OF THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL NATO SCIENCE MECHANISMS, WHICH COULD BE REPRODUCED IN THE ECE WITHOUT UNDERCUTTING THEIR CONTINUED SUCCESSFUL OPERATION WITHIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THIS APPROACH WOULD BRING TO BEAR DEVICES WITH PROVEN EFFECTIVENESS, WHICH IN THEIR PRESENT CONTEXT (I. E., NATO) ARE UNLIKELY TO DRAW MUCH EASTERN PARTICIPATION. (WHILE CERTAIN OF THE NATO INSTITUTIONS HAVE INCLUDED EASTERN SCIENTISTS INFORMALLY AND ON A LIMITED BASIS, IT HAS NOT BEEN CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO FORMALIZE THEIR INCLUSION, NOR WOULD THIS BE THE MOST POLITICALLY APPROPRIATE OR TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE WAY OF PROCEEDING IN THE FUTURE.)

4. SUCH SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE
(1) LOW COST, (2) LOW PROFILE (IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE
THEIR BEING UNDULY SUBORDINATED TO POLITICAL INTERESTS),
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AND (3) SIMPLE TO ADMINISTER.

5. THE FOLLOWING NATO SCIENCE ACTIVITIES WHICH FIT THESE CRITERIA COULD BE ADAPTED TO THE ECE FORUM.

A. ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES.

EACH YEAR SOME 50 SUMMER STUDY SESSIONS, COMPRISING FROM 30-50 LECTURERS AND POST- DOCTORAL " STUDENTS", MEET FOR 2-4 WEEKS IN EUROPE OR THE US TO EXPLORE IN DEPTH A SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE. SINCE 1958 OVER

10,000 EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN SCIENTISTS HAVE MET AND SHARED VIEWPOINTS ON SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS -- FREQUENTLY PRODUCING DEFINITIVE REPORTS AND LEADING TO SUBSEQUENT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION. THE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF BASED ON DECISIONS OF A PANEL OF SCIENTISTS FROM 6-8 MEMBER STATES AND PERIODIC REVIEW BY THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE.

YEARLY COST: 930,000 DOLLARS.

B. JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAM.

A PANEL OF SCIENTISTS FROM VARIOUS DISCIPLINES GRANTS FUNDS TO SUPPORT JOINT RESEARCH INVOLVING SCIENTISTS OF TWO OR MORE MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE GRANT AUGMENTS FUNDS AND FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. THE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE PANEL AND REVIEW BY THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE.

YEARLY COST: 625,000 DOLLARS.

C. RESEARCH EVALUATION CONFERENCES.

THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE SPONSORS TWO OR THREE RESEARCH EVALUATION CONFERENCES YEARLY IN AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE TO ASSESS WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH IN THOSE FIELDS IN THE FUTURE. THESE HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVED TO BE ESPECIALLY VALUABLE IN PREPARATION FOR THE RESEARCH AND OTHER PROGRAM WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IN A MAJOR SELECTED FIELD. THE COST FOR HOLDING A CONFERENCE IS 20-30,000 DOLLARS.

YEARLY COST: 40-60,000 DOLLARS.

6. IN ADDITION TO THEIR PROVEN INSTITUTIONAL SUCCESS, ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF ALLIED GOALS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN CONTACTS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS. END TEXT.

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